

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 9, 2005. Claims 1 to 9, 12, 13, 16 to 19, and 21 to 26 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 23 to 26. Based on that indication, the substance of Claim 23 and the claims from which it depended has been added to Claim 1, and Claims 14, 15, 20 and 23 have all been cancelled. IN addition, the dependencies of the remaining claims has been adjusted, together with a number of other conforming amendments.

The Examiner's objections to Claims 2 and 16 have been attended to by amendment above.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 14 to 18, 27, 35 and 38 to 40 were rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1 to 18 of U.S. Patent 6,773,099; Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19 to 22, 27, 30, 35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,905,518 (DeFilippis); Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10 to 14, 19 and 27 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over U.S. Patent 6,520,630 (Oda '630); and Claims 2, 9, 1 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Oda '630 in view of U.S. Patent 6,726,313 (Oda '313). The foregoing actions were taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of these rejections in an effort to obtain an earlier allowance of the subject application and to expedite issuance.

No other matters being raised, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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